



ANTI-IMPERIALIST

STRUGGLE IN THE CONGO

LEOPOLDVILLE



One of the most active battlefields of the anti-imperialist struggle on the colonial front is found in the Kinshasa Congo, formerly known as Leopoldville.

Two powers are in conflict in this area: The United States and Belgium. Between the two is ex-sergeant Mobutu, chief of state since the November 24, 1965 coup against his former part-

ners Kasabuvu and Moises Tshombe. Mobutu resolutely supports the United States.

The contradictions between these two colonialist powers—Belgium, whose influence is declining in Africa, and the United States, which is frenetically trying to unite the most reactionary tribal sectors, to push them into conspiracies, and to capitalize on the fruit of their plunder—exploded on January 1st. Mobutu dissolved the "Union Miniere du Haut Katanga", replacing it with the hybrid "General Congolese Mining Society".

The pretext used was that the Belgian monopoly refused to move its headquarters in Brussels to Kinshasa, ignoring an ultimatum issued by Mobutu on December 22nd, and that it rejected a demand for payment of unpaid

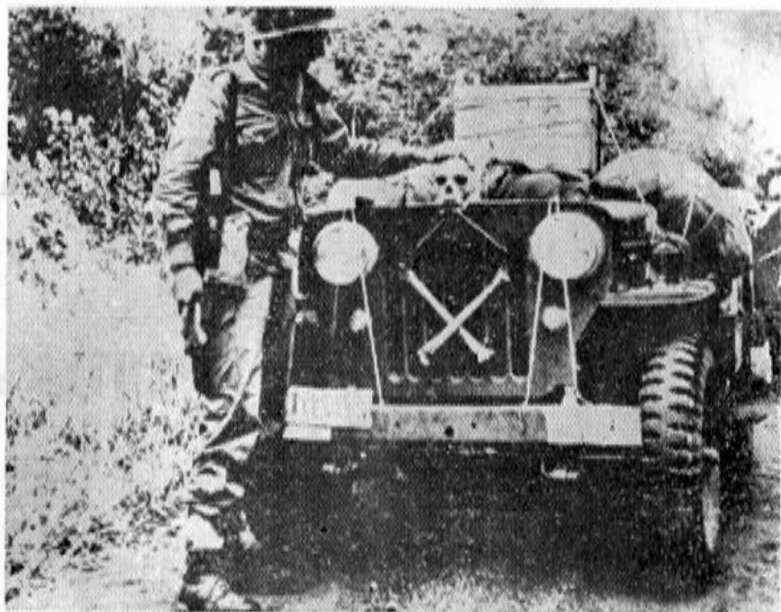
taxes amounting to 4 million Belgian francs (80 million dollars) due since the time of Katanga's secession. And also 10% of the Company stocks abroad.

This business of the "General Congolese Society" is a bitter irony. The people will not get a cent out of its dividends. But all these demagogic statements help Mobutu play the role of a "nationalist". He knows it and he uses it.

That's why he changed the foreign names of Congolese cities to native names. That's why he proclaims himself ideological heir of Lumumba, one of whose executioners he was.

According to official reports, 55 percent of the stocks of the former "Union Miniere" will be controlled by the Congolese government, which is just a subterfuge to avoid calling things by their





own names which, undoubtedly, would be in English. 15 percent of the stocks will be granted to the Tanganyika concession (British) and the other 30 percent will be placed "on sale". Everyone knows, in advance, who is going to buy them. Therefore, 85 percent of the company will be controlled by the Yankees (30 percent through a "free sale" plus the 55 percent of the Mobutu regime).

This change of owners cost the Belgians the equivalent in gold of 300 thousand tons of copper and more than 9 thousand tons of cobalt annually, not counting other equally valuable minerals.

Commenting on this transaction, the newspaper "Libre Belgique" threatened Mobutu with an uprising that would bring former Prime Minister Moïse Tshombe into power.

Against the favorite of Wall Street are Belgium (the main casualty), Portugal, Rhodesia, South Africa, and, to

a certain extent, the Federal Germany Republic (West Germany) which have formed their own colonialist cartel in this battle for the preservation and extension of spheres of influence.

Recently "Revolution Africaine" reported that Tshombe is training mercenaries in Portugal and that he has military camps on the Angolan-Congolese border (territory of the Lundas). According to the newspaper "Tshombe is waiting for the first opportunity to carry out an 'insurrectional' movement to restore to the Belgians the possessions they have been deprived of.

The Yankees, on the other hand, are hastening to strengthen Mobutu against any contingency by granting him a special credit amounting to two million dollars (right now) for his repressive forces. In exchange for this, Mobutu opens the domestic market to U.S. agricultural surpluses amounting to nine million dollars.